

REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR January 14, 2004

COMPUTER UPGRADE WOES

All DNR offices are experiencing problems with e-mail this week due to a recent software upgrade. Please be patient. We will respond to email inquiries as soon as possible.

BROWNFIELDS STUDY GROUP NEWS

Email Sign Up For Study Group Updates! Have you been receiving email updates on the Brownfields Study Group? If you have, then we need your help. Due to changes in DNR computer software and programming, we have been unable to access the Brownfields Study Group email distribution list. If you have been receiving email info on the Study Group and would like to continue doing so, please send an email to Andrew Savagian at andrew.savagian@dnr.state.wi.us. If you are not on the list but would like to sign up, please indicate so via an email to Andrew. For more information on the Study Group, please click on the following link: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/bsg/index.htm.

NEXT BROWNFIELDS STUDY GROUP MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

The Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group will be holding its next meeting on Thursday, January 29, from 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Conference Room C, Verex Building, 150 E. Gilman, in Madison. Foley & Lardner are hosting the meeting. For directions and a map, please see the left sidebar at this link: http://www.foley.com/about/office_detail.aspx?locationid=22. The tentative agenda includes:

- 9:30 a.m. - Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Repair
- 9:40 a.m. - Biennial Budgets, Staff Reductions - Updates
- 10:00 a.m. - Brownfields Legislation - Update
- 10:45 a.m. - Proposed Wisconsin Brownfields Insurance Program (WBIP) - Update
- 11:30 a.m. - Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. - EPA One Cleanup Program MOU - Update
- 12:45 p.m. - U.S. Supreme Court Aviall Case: Effect on WI Brownfields? - FYI
- 1:00 p.m. - DNR, Commerce & EPA Grants, Land Recycling Loans
- 2:15 p.m. - DNR's VPLE Process - Brainstorming
- 2:30 p.m. - Consensus-Based Contaminated Sediment Cleanup Guidelines - FYI

DNR ESTABLISHES FEEDBACK LINE

DNR has established a customer feedback line for the public to report either problems or positive interactions with DNR staff that occur after January 1. The number is 608- 266-0158. The line will be answered during regular business hours, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. If the line is busy, the caller may leave a message for a return call. Callers will be asked to identify themselves and to provide specific information regarding their concern or situation. Supervisors will follow up on the information received. DNR also plans to develop a feedback form on the web.

NEW DNR WEB ADDRESS

As of January, DNR has simplified its main web address to www.dnr.state.wi.us. The change results from a new state policy to provide uniform addresses for government sites. If you access the RR Program web page through DNR's main page, you can find us by clicking on the "Environmental Protection" link on the left sidebar, then click on the "Environmental Cleanup" link on that page. Or, you can access us directly at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr.

RR PROGRAM REMINDERS:

- Site Assessment Grant (SAG) applications are due February 13.
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/rbrownfields/sag.htm>
- Northeast Region is holding a Consultant Day on March 31.
<http://www.fetinc.org/3-31-04NERConsultantsDay.pdf>

AVOID PROBLEMS WITH LABORATORY DATA

Chapter NR 149, Wis. Admin. Code (Laboratory Certification and Registration), requires use of a certified or registered laboratory for data that must be submitted to DNR's RR Program. Some consulting firms have been overlooking this requirement – in bids, work plans, site investigations, remedial activities, long-term monitoring and requests for case closure. Sometimes familiarity with a lab can lead to overlooking its current certification status. Not all labs are certified in all test categories. Some categories include multiple parameters, and labs are certified separately for each parameter within the category. In addition, a large analytical service may have multiple locations, and each location needs to be certified for the test categories being analyzed. Finally, don't forget that certifications need to be renewed. A lab that was certified a year ago for all parameters needed for a site investigation may, for a number of reasons, not be currently certified. It's not unusual for a certified lab to lose or withdraw certification for one or more parameters.

The remedy is simple. After the analytical parameters to be included in field work have been established, use the "Commercial Laboratories" link on this web page to determine a lab's certification status for those parameters – www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/science/lc/search. Note that other lists on the same web page show the status of labs performing specific analyses, e.g. pesticides, petroleum, etc. Be sure you check the lab location that you will actually be using. And remember, when a certified lab subcontracts with another lab, the subcontracted lab must have the same certification.

For some multi-analyte methods, typically organics, certification is offered under more than one test category, typically based on technology. Be certain that the laboratory holds certification for the technology being used. For example, if the parameter is a polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH), HPLC method 8310 is often used due to its low detection limits (test category 13). However, labs are developing methods for PAHs that operate the mass spectrometer in selected ion monitoring mode, or SIM. This allows detection limits that equal or surpass HPLC. Because SIM is an option under method 8270C, it meets the methods requirements of NR 716. In this case, however, the lab would need to be certified either for semi-volatiles by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) under test category 12 (organic; semi-volatiles by GC/MS) or for PAHs by GC/MS SIM under test category 19 (any single analyte or analyte group). If a lab can achieve low enough detection limits for PAHs, either method may be used for groundwater analysis.

If you have questions about laboratory certification, please contact Rick Mealy, DNR Science Services, at 608-264-6006 or richard.mealy@dnr.state.wi.us. For questions about RR Program chemistry issues, please contact Charlene Khazae at 608-267-0543 or charlene.khazae@dnr.state.wi.us. It's a lot easier, time and money-wise, to avoid lab certification problems by careful planning early in the process than to be faced with unusable data later.

This listserv operates by self-subscription only.

To subscribe send an e-mail message to: majordomo@badger.state.wi.us. Leave the subject line blank and type this in the body of the message: subscribe rr. Be sure your signature block is turned off.

To unsubscribe send an e-mail to: majordomo@badger.state.wi.us. Type this in the body of the message: unsubscribe rr, followed by the e-mail address you originally used to subscribe. Be sure your signature block is turned off. An archive of the "RR News from DNR" is located at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/general/listserv.html>